

GRIEVANCES WHICH LED TO THE CUBAN REBEL

Conservative Review of the Causes of Spain's Downfall in the Queen of the Antilles.

Colonel Henry Hall in Pittsburg Times.

What is Cuba's complaint against Spain? Of course, it is generally understood that it is tyranny, injustice and oppression, but at a time when it looks as though the United States might be compelled to intervene to gain Cuba's independence, a specific statement of the acts of oppression complained of may be opportune. As in all cases of this kind, the statements of the party making the arraignment are one-sided, and contradicted by the other side. The Declaration of Independence was an ex parte statement, and no doubt King George regarded it as false and slanderous, but the American people put it before the world and then proceeded to back it up with the force of arms. Few people even in England now attempt to deny the course of the British government toward the colonies, and while there are those now who assert that the Cuban representations with regard to the injustice they suffer at the hands of Spain are overdrawn and in many respects false, it is not likely that a similar would have arisen in rebellion against a powerful mother country six times in 70 years, waging once a struggle that lasted 10 years and cost Spain the lives of 200,000 soldiers, and have now waged for three years another in which Spain has sacrificed nearly 100,000 men, without having a real and substantial ground for complaint and resistance. Cuba's grievances, stated as briefly as possible, are as follows:

1-Cuba is not allowed to manage her own affairs. The Cuban government is presented by the Madrid government to the Cortes and voted by over 500 Spanish representatives, regardless of the Cuban special ones, except those who, being elected through the influence of the government, are always ready to vote with it, even if it is against the interest that they appear to represent.

2-Cuba has her own treasury and what is called her own debt, but not the right to fix expenses, salaries, number of employees, nor to appoint them. The Madrid government holds that right and sends the office-holders from Spain. Generally paying to be appointed, they fall on Cuba as birds of prey, ravage the country, and return home with the spoils. An official who has served 18 years in Spain may serve two more in Cuba and then retire on a pension of four-fifths his salary which Cuba has to pay.

3-Cuba has been paying the debts raised by Spain through her wars in Mexico, South America, and San Domingo; also the salaries of all the Spanish ministers and consular officials in America and the amount granted by Spain to the line of steamers between Spain and Cuba. Lately Cuba has been released of this burden.

4-All loans raised to meet the war expenses and keep up the integrity of the nation are not paid by the nation at large, but charged exclusively on Cuba, without any interference from her part as to the loans, interest, form of payment, etc.

5-Cuba takes no part in regulating her commercial affairs nor her tariff. The Madrid government rules over all, having always a majority in the Cortes ready to approve its acts. So it happens that while the United States is the commercial metropolis of Cuba and buys from her 90 per cent of her production, Cuba in exchange cannot buy of the United States machinery, farm implements, provisions and goods of all kinds, because the important duties fixed by Spain amount to more than the price of the articles in the American market; but if the same article is shipped to Spain it can be re-exported to Cuba and compete advantageously in price with the same object imported into Havana from the United States. Injurious to the interests of Cuba and of the United States in their commercial relations.

6-While most of the merchandise from Spain enters Cuba free of duty, and only a few articles are subject to a normal duty, Cuban products are excused from the duties on cigars, and other Cuban products, but for the benefit granted by the said republic to the wines from Spain.

7-Cuban tobacco and cigars are almost excluded from Spain, notwithstanding their being the second important production of the island and unrivaled in the world. The Madrid government has established so strong a monopoly in favor of a trust for the manufacture and sale of cigars in Spain that Cuban products can only be sold there through the agency of and payment of a high commission to this company.

8-Countless millions of dollars have been officially taken from Cuba to Spain in times of her prosperity, and when she has come to her ruin through the scandalous mismanagement of the Spanish government she is charged with all the expenses made to preserve the integrity of the nation and the oppressive policy that will at last produce the independence of the island.

9-Separate from the municipal and provincial taxes, the ordinary budget imposed upon Cuba by Spain has been as high as \$40,000,000, being at present over 25,000,000, to be drawn from a population of 1,500,000 and a despotic country. The extraordinary budget to meet all the expenses of war is unlimited.

10-Taxes are levied by the Madrid government on every imaginable thing, and not only on the estimated profit that property, professions, industry, commerce, etc., can produce, but even on the amount paid for said taxes; on every inhabitant from 14 years up, on public and private salaries and pensions, and on tenants on and for the amount they pay as farm, house or office, there being besides the high-priced taxes for all official and business transactions.

11-Since 1836 special laws were promulgated, and in 1838, 69 years later, Cuba is still without them and subject as ever to the prey and ravages of the unscrupulous Spanish government. Spanish politicians, merchants in Spain and public employees, all of whom speculate with the mismanagement of the country.

In support of these charges the Cubans offer evidence which seems convincing. Spain's plan of taking the control of Cuban affairs out of the hands of the Cuban people was accomplished by an electoral law which had for its object, first, to reduce the number of voters; second, to give always a majority to the Spaniards, who form 83 per cent of the total population of Cuba. To this effect it made the electoral right dependent on the payment of a very high poll tax, and in this way succeeded in restricting the right of suffrage to only 53,000 in a total population of 1,500,000, or 3 per cent of the whole number of inhabitants.

NAVAL FIGHT AGAINST ODDS

Almost Certain Destruction Awaits the Crews of War Vessels.

PERILS OF THE TORPEDO BOAT

A Well Directed Shot Will Blow a Boat and Crew to Atoms in an Instant—History of the Vain Attempts to Operate Submarine Vessels—Recent Successful Trials of the Holland.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

The naval officer who remarked that the erection of a monument to the memory of the officers and crew of the dynamite cruiser Vesuvius would be in order just as soon as that vessel went into action spoke with a full understanding of the probabilities attending the first engagement between the warships of the United States and Spain. He might have included the heroes who will form the crews of the torpedo boats, the torpedo boat destroyers, and even the armored cruisers and battleships. Their chances of life will be but a trifle better than those of the men on the Vesuvius. One well-directed shell aimed at a broadside will bring down the most formidable battleship afloat.

In the days when iron and steel had not supplanted oak in the construction of fighting ships, when long tons, carrouns and ten-pounders were the equivalents of breech-loading rifles and machine guns, when a shell could be fired at close quarters and the destructiveness of a single projectile from a high-power rifle over a range of four miles, the sailor felt that as long as his ship floated he had as good a chance of escaping dry land as his enemy. He relied on the strength of his hull, the solidity of his masts, and the buoyancy of his ship for his protection. He had a piece of iron for a life-preserver if the fight went the wrong way. Today he is in much the same fix as the man who went sailing in a sloop before the war.

There was never a hope so forlorn, however, that a leader was lacking, and no leader ever failed to find those who would follow him. Today the navy is being recruited as rapidly as possible with men who are of too high an order of intelligence not to know the perils before them. A certain proportion of these men will be assigned to the torpedo boats, which are the service which has been recognized as the most hazardous of all, making an exception in favor of any actual work that may be attempted with such new-fangled ideas as the Holland and Raddat submarine torpedo boats. Moral courage of the highest order will be required of every officer and enlisted man when the call of duty takes him into an engagement with any of these deadly machines as his weapon of attack.

Experience has demonstrated that the torpedo boat, whether operated above or below the water, is as much of a menace to the life of its crew as it is to the ship it attacks. It may run the gauntlet of the machine guns under cover of darkness and deliver a fatal blow against the armored side of the battle ship, but the chances are as one in a hundred that the explosion which sinks the big ship will destroy the little boat and its crew. The submarine torpedo boat is an unknown quantity in actual warfare, unless its worth is estimated by the results attending repeated trials of similar boats during the civil war.

HER DECADENCE. Why has Spain lost all her power? The theorist, who holds that education is the cause of greatness, will point to the answer in the statistics concerning Spain's illiteracy. Only one nation in Europe is lower in enlightenment than Spain. That is Italy. Of all the population of Spain only twenty-eight per cent can read and write, four per cent can read only and sixty-eight per cent can neither read nor write. When you come to think of it this fact staggers the mind. Here is a nation in the heart of civilization, and sixty-eight per cent of its people have no conception whatsoever of the march of the printing press, or of the letters that Cadmus brought to Europe. But let us go a little deeper into this matter of illiteracy. I do not desire to talk about causes; the sociologists can do that. But were one in the mood to do it a sociological study of Spain would be worth the writing. Spain, as I have said, has a population of less than 18,000,000, and sixty-eight per cent of her people cannot read or write. The United States has a population of, let us say, 70,000,000. Of the population of the United States in this country only six per cent cannot read or write. Of the foreign whites only thirteen per cent cannot read or write, and of the colored population fifty-six per cent cannot read or write. But, accounting for the foreigners and the negroes in the computation, there is but thirteen per cent of the population in this country that cannot read or write. Think of it! Out of nearly 40,000,000 native white Americans only six per cent cannot read or write, and Spain's percentage is sixty-eight!

TRAVELLERS' ELYSIUM

Location Not Made Public for Reasons Which Will Be Understood.

The pilgrim alighted on the depot platform of a small Ohio town shortly before midnight. A hack stood near by—a four-wheeler—and the tired traveler was soon en route to what the driver assured him was the hotel in Spain. In town. When the carriage stopped the visitor pulled half a dollar from his pocket and tendered it.

"No, thank you, sir," said the Jehu. "Please to be accommodated you." "Three minutes later the man had registered.

"Want to go to your room right away, Mr. Smith?" queried the clerk. "Yes."

"Well, say," said the clerk, with a mysterious wink, "how would a good drink of whiskey strike you before you go to bed?"

"If it's a drink of good whiskey I think it might be the proper thing," was Mr. Smith's answer.

The clerk took one with his guest, "just to be sociable," and the somewhat astonished Mr. Smith, who was what astonished Mr. Smith, arose with the sparrows, but the clerk was with him.

"Morning, Mr. Smith," said he. "Hope you slept well. Just going into breakfast?" "Yes," another confidential wink—"what do you think of a nice cocktail for an appetizer?"

Mr. Smith, who believes in picking up all the good nuggets on which he stabs his toes while walking life's pathway, yielded assent. He also wondered what kind of a game he had discovered.

At noon the obsequious clerk was at the dining room door. "Would a bottle of beer fit in with your dinner, Mr. Smith?"

The now thoroughly astonished Smith simply nodded. That afternoon he left town. His bill was simply for bed, breakfast, and dinner. The whiskey, cocktail and beer were not in evidence.

At the dinner he engaged in conversation by a somewhat inebriated individual who was proclaiming in vociferous tones the beauties and glories of the town.

"Mr. Smith, where did you stop?" "Mr. Smith told him.

REMEMBER THE GREAT BARGAINS ADVERTISED SUNDAY ARE ON SALE ALL THIS WEEK.

Real Sacrifice Sale of Ladies' Tailor-Made Suits, Wednesday and Thursday

YOU may have read of the recent failure in New York city of a well-known manufacturer of Ladies' Suits. Experts in the line say there were none better than he. You know about the boy whose "eyes were bigger than his stomach." That was the trouble with this manufacturer. He made too many Suits for the depressed market—the crash came—and the gilded sign of success no longer hangs over his door. But his Suits were good ones and we're glad to offer them to our public at about half their worth. This is their story—they're in two lots:

Lot No. 1

These Suits are made up of very fine materials. The Jacket is Silk lined—the Skirt is the new graceful hanging kind, velvet bound. They come in black and navy blue. In the lot are also a number of Homespun Tailor-Made Suits, made up from green, tan and cadet mixtures. The New York manufacturer's price of these Suits was \$10.

Special Here Wednesday and Thursday only..... \$5.69

Lot No. 2

The second lot are Eton Blouse Suits, which come in Navy, Brown, Green, and Black Cashmeres. Waists are handsomely trimmed; also a lot of the same style suits made up from Scotch Twills in grey, green and cadet. These latter are made to be worn open as a Revere. The New York manufacturer's price of them was \$12.00 and \$15.00.

Special Here Wednesday and Thursday Only..... \$7.90

Mail orders for these garments will be promptly filled on the days mentioned. Send us the size and color you require, taking particular pains to give the correct bust and waist measures and length of skirt. All goods are delivered free.

Jonas Long's Sons

Who are the Spanish? What is their blood, their ethnography, their race? We have no end of history about Spain. Philology tells us they are Latin. Their language was once vulgar Latin, such as the Roman spoke. But it was corrupted by the invaders from the north and the march of the printing press. There are traces in the language of ancient dialects which the Spanish got from the Greeks, the Carthaginians and the Phoenicians. The Goths took the vulgar Latin which the Romans had left and made the language of Hispania. In remote antiquity there were certain Celts who mixed with the Iberians (original inhabitants of Spain). Then came the Phoenicians and the Carthaginians and later the Romans and last the Goths and the Visigoths. And there you have the story of Spanish blood and race. The Vandals conquered part of Spain and their section of it was called Vandalsia (whence the modern Andalusia). I do not think we can say the Spanish have had any worse origin than the rest of us. We have the same ancestors, but the other Mediterranean races have left Spain almost as far behind as they have left the Mongols. The Basques are not of the same blood as other Spaniards. Professor Mueller in his great work, "Anthropology," says the Basques are the remnants of a distinct race, and Professor Ernest Haeckel says the Basques are descendants from a totally different ape-like man than that which was the father of the Indo-Germanic tribes.

AN ANOMALY. Before the age of steam engines and telegraphs, when Europe was semi-civilized, Spain was a great nation. She was a strong savage among savages. But this is the age of cruelty and how cruel Spain has been and is! It is the age when unity and equity rules or is making to rule. For the sake of romance I would not like to see Spain die. She is so full of color, so anomalous, so alone in Europe, so nobly fierce, so proud among nations that have almost given up the savage pride we had from the old times! She is like dream glimpses of Haroun-al-Raschid. And yet, with all, there is no more to be said in all the world. We are impressed when we see the death of a man. How much more should we be impressed as we look thoughtfully and attentively at the quick respiration of a dying nation!

LAST YEAR'S COAL OUTPUT.

From a preliminary statement compiled by E. W. Parker, statistician of the United States geological survey, it is shown that the total output of coal in the United States in 1897 amounted approximately to 198,250,000 short tons, with an aggregate value of \$28,300,000, a fraction less than \$1 per ton. Compared with 1896 this shows an increase in tonnage of 3,200,000 tons, or about 1.6 per cent. The increase in the value of the product was only \$1,500,000, a little less than 1 per cent. The amount of coal produced in 1897 was the largest on record. The average value per ton was the lowest ever known, continuing the declining tendency shown for the past six years.

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Advertisement for Castoria, featuring the text 'CASTORIA' and 'The Kind You Have Always Bought'.